



Arizona House of Representatives House Majority Research MEMORANDUM

Courtney Riddle
Legislative Research Analyst
(602) 926-3860

1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
FAX (602) 417-3099

To: JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE
Representative Laura Knaperek, Co-Chair
Senator Robert Blendu, Co-Chair

RE: ARIZONA FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD – SUNSET REVIEW

Date: December 2005

Attached is the final report of the sunset review of the Arizona Foster Care Review Board, which was conducted by the House of Representatives Human Services and the Senate Family Services Committee of Reference. This report has been distributed to the following individuals and agencies:

Governor of the State of Arizona

The Honorable Janet Napolitano

President of the Senate

Senator Ken Bennett

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Representative James P. Weiers

Senate Members

Senator Karen Johnson, Co-Chair
Senator Linda Gray
Senator Rebecca Rios
Senator Victor Soltero
Senator Thayer Verschoor

House Members

Representative Pete Hershberger, Co-Chair
Representative Manuel Alvarez
Representative Mark Anderson
Representative David Bradley
Representative Warde Nichols

Miscellaneous

Administrative Office of the Courts, Division of Dependent Children
Office of the Auditor General
Department of Library, Archives & Public Records
Office of the Chief Clerk and Secretary of the Senate

Senate Republican Staff
Senate Research Staff
Senate Democratic Staff

House Majority Staff
House Research Staff
House Democratic Staff

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

*House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Family Services*

ARIZONA FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

To: JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Senator Robert Blendu, Co-Chair

Representative Laura Knaperek, Co-Chair

Date: December 2005

Pursuant to Title 41, Chapter 27, Arizona Revised Statutes, the Committee of Reference, after performing a sunset review and conducting a public hearing, recommends the following:

- 1. The Arizona Foster Care Review Board be continued for ten years.*

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Representative Peter Hershberger, Co-Chair

Representative Manuel Alvarez

Representative Mark Anderson

Representative David Bradley

Representative Warde Nichols

Senator Karen Johnson, Co-Chair

Senator Linda Gray

Senator Rebecca Rios

Senator Victor Soltero

Senator Thayer Verschoor

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

*House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Family Services*

Arizona Foster Care Review Board Final Report

I. Background

Pursuant to §41-2953, Arizona Revised Statutes, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) assigned the sunset review of the Arizona Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) to the House of Representatives Human Services and the Senate Family Services Committee of Reference. [Attachment A]

II. Committee of Reference Sunset Review Procedure

The Committee of Reference held one public hearing on Monday, November 28, 2005, to review the performance audit of the FCRB by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and to receive public testimony. [Attachment B]

At the public hearing, the Committee heard testimony from the following:

- X Jessica Tucker, Senior Performance Auditor, OAG
- X William Stanton, Director of Dependent Children Services Division, Supreme Court
- X Bruce Brannon, Chairman, State Foster Care Review Board
- X Tracy Candelaria, Foster Care Review Board, Apache County; Member, FCRB

Staff from the OAG provided a power point computer presentation outlining information regarding the FCRB, including the Board's statutory responsibilities. The presentation summarized the Auditor General's findings as follows:

- Finding One:
 - The FCRB adds value to the foster care review process; however, the FCRB can improve its effectiveness by ensuring timely reporting.
 - The FCRB should improve the reporting of service gaps in the child welfare system by providing training and obtaining access to CPS data and obtaining input from stakeholders and revising its services gap report.
- Finding Two:
 - The FCRB has key elements to manage volunteers, but can enhance training compliance.
 - The FCRB should continue to ensure training is met by the volunteers and establish a diversity plan to help ensure recruiting efforts are effective.
- Sunset Factors:
 - FCRB should notify the JLBC of its retention of Title IV-E Monies in order to satisfy the Sunset Factor number 3.

The Director of Dependent Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court noted that the FCRB is in the process of implementing all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

The Foster Care Review Board was first established in 1978 to address concerns that Arizona's foster children were being "lost" in the system and as a result, were staying too long in care; that they were not receiving appropriate medical care; and that foster parents were not receiving adequate pay to ensure the daily needs of the children were being met. The FCRB is responsible for conducting citizen reviews of children who have been placed in out of home care. Volunteer review boards are located throughout the state to conduct reviews of children in out of home care and make recommendations to the juvenile court, the Department of Economic Security (DES), and other interested parties. . §8-515.01 requires the establishment of one local citizen review board for every 100 children in out of home care. Currently, there are approximately 426 volunteers and 95 boards statewide. FCRB local boards are required to conduct these reviews at least once every six months and submit findings and recommendations to the juvenile court. As of June 2005, FCRB's caseload included 5,263 cases representing 9,054 children. In addition to the local boards, statute provides for the FCRB State Board. The State Board serves as an oversight body for the FCRB and is composed of 7 at-large member positions appointed by the Supreme Court and 35 volunteer representatives from the local boards. The State Board is responsible for establishing the policies and procedures that govern the local boards, including training requirements for the local board members. The State Board also advocates for child and family needs through interaction with legislators and collaborates with entities and stakeholders involved with foster care.

The FCRB receives the majority of their funding through the State General Fund. In FY 2005, the FCRB received \$1.9 million from the General Fund. Additionally, the Board received \$366,465 from the Juvenile Crime Reduction Fund, \$761,429 from Federal Title IV-E monies, and \$232,966 through CASA monies, which is funded through unclaimed lottery prizes.

III. Committee Recommendations

The Committee of Reference recommends that the Foster Care Review Board be continued for 10 years.

IV. Statutory Report Pursuant to Section 41-2954, Arizona Revised Statutes

[Attachment C]

V. Attachments

- A. Meeting Notice
- B. Minutes of Committee of Reference Hearing
- C. Foster Care Review Board Report to Committee of Reference

Attachment A

Interim agendas can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/InterimCommittees.asp>

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

INTERIM MEETING NOTICE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SENATE FAMILY SERVICES AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUNSET REVIEW OF: FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Date: Monday, November 28, 2005

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: House Hearing Room 4

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Opening Remarks
3. Foster Care Review Board
 - Presentation by the Office of the Auditor General
 - Response by the Foster Care Review Board
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendation by the Committee of Reference
4. Department of Economic Security
 - Presentation by the Office of the Auditor General
 - Response by the Department of Economic Security
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendation by the Committee of Reference
5. Adjourn

Members:

Senator Karen Johnson, Co-Chair
Senator Linda Gray
Senator Rebecca Rios
Senator Victor Soltero
Senator Thayer Verschoor

Representative Pete Hershberger, Co-Chair
Representative Manuel Alvarez
Representative Mark Anderson
Representative David Bradley
Representative Warde Nichols

11/15/05
jmb

People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact the Chief Clerk's Office at (602) 926-3032, TDD (602) 926-3241.

Attachment B

----- DOCUMENT HEADER -----

----- DOCUMENT HEADER -----

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE
Forty-seventh Legislature – First Regular Session

SENATE FAMILY SERVICES AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUNSET REVIEW OF
FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Minutes of Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2005
House Hearing Room 4 -- 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Hershberger called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. and attendance was noted by the secretary.

Members Present

Senator Gray
Senator Soltero
Senator Verschoor
Senator Johnson, Cochair

Representative Alvarez
Representative Anderson
Representative Bradley
Representative Hershberger, Cochair

Members Absent

Senator Rios

Representative Nichols

Speakers Present

Jessica Tucker, Senior Performance Auditor, Office of the Auditor General
Bill Stanton, Division Director, Dependent Children's Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Supreme Court
Bruce Brannon, Chairman, State Foster Care Review Board
Tracy Candelaria, Foster Care Review Board, Apache County; Member, State Foster Care Review Board
Melanie Chesney, Director, Performance Audit Division, Office of the Auditor General
David Berns, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Lynne Smith, Assistant Director, Division of Business and Finance, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Vince Wood, Assistant Director, Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Tracy Wareing, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Children, Youth and Families, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Mary Gill, Deputy Director, Operations, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Mikayla Bailey-Null, Family Advocate, Family Advocacy in Reunification
Robin Scoins, Director, Arizona Family Rights Advocacy Institute
Debbie Davenport, Auditor General

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Hershberger remarked that oversight of the agencies that deal with children and keep children safe is very important.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Presentation by the Office of the Auditor General

Jessica Tucker, Senior Performance Auditor, Office of the Auditor General, related that the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) reviews cases of children in out-of-home care and advises the juvenile court on safety of the children and appropriateness of placements. FCRB also reports information regarding needed improvements in the child welfare system. In FY 2005, FCRB received approximately \$1.9 million from the State General Fund, and beginning in FY 2004, began receiving additional state monies from the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Fund, as well as grant monies from the Juvenile Crime Reduction Fund (JCRF). Federal Title IV-E monies are also received from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES).

She said state statute requires one local citizen review board for every 100 children in out-of-home care. As of June 2005, there were approximately 417 local board volunteers on 94 local boards in Arizona. It is mandated that there be at least one local review board in each county. The local boards are required to conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care at least once every six months and provide reports to the juvenile court within 30 days detailing the results of the review and making recommendations for permanent placement. Volunteers are appointed to the local boards by the juvenile court after completion of FCRB's application and selection process. FCRB board members serve a three-year term and must complete initial and ongoing training.

Ms. Tucker related that in addition to the local boards, statute also provides for the FCRB State Board, which serves as an oversight body for the FCRB. The FCRB State Board is composed of seven at-large members appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court and one local board representative from each county. As of June 2005, there were 35 local board representatives. In relation to the audit, she conveyed the following:

Finding 1: To assess FCRB's value, juvenile court judges and commissioners throughout the State were surveyed, and most respondents reported that FCRB adds value to the foster care review process; however, the survey responses and auditors indicate that the FCRB can become more effective with timely reporting to the courts within 30 days of reviews by developing a comprehensive report tracking system. Also, the FCRB should improve reporting of service gaps in the child welfare system by providing training to volunteers on how to identify service gaps, obtaining access to Child Protective Services (CPS) data, and obtaining input from stakeholders to revise the Service Gap Report.

Finding 2: The FCRB has the components of an effective volunteer management system as recommended by experts (selection process, defined responsibilities, initial and ongoing training, periodic evaluation, and recruiting); however, volunteer training compliance and diversity can be further enhanced by ensuring that volunteers meet training requirements and establishing a

diversity plan for volunteers.

Sunset Factors: With regard to Sunset Factor #3 (the extent to which the FCRB has operated within the public interest), the FCRB generally operates in the public interest by providing an independent review of cases of children in out-of-home care; however, the FCRB is required to provide annual written notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) regarding retention of Title IV-E monies and should notify JLBC of \$1.2 million in unused Title IV-E monies.

Ms. Tucker added that the FCRB agreed with the findings and indicated that the recommendations will be implemented (Presentation, Attachment 1; Report to the Arizona Legislature, Attachment 2).

She advised Senator Johnson that the FCRB had been collecting information regarding service gaps for about a year at the time of the audit, and a copy of a Service Gap Report can be found on Page 13 of the Report (Attachment 2). She clarified for Senator Soltero that the FCRB's budget request included information about Title IV-E monies; however, the recommendation was that JLBC provide written documentation.

Response by the Foster Care Review Board

Bill Stanton, Division Director, Dependent Children's Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Supreme Court, stated that the number of children in out-of-home care increased over the last few years. As of November 2, 2005, 9,388 children were reviewed by the FCRB, which involved 5,463 cases as some relate to more than one child. As the numbers increase, additional boards are added, and as of November 2, 2005, there are 95 boards. Four additional boards will be added for a total of 99 boards by January 2006.

He stated that the audit report addressed the issue of diversity within the FCRB. The demographics of the FCRB are very similar to programs throughout the U.S. Generally people who volunteer are Anglo-American females over the age of 50 who are retired. The volunteers spend one full day per month reviewing cases and six to seven hours preparing for reviews, so it is difficult for people with full-time jobs to make that kind of commitment. He stated that all of the recommendations will be implemented as follows:

Finding 1/Recommendation 1 (develop a comprehensive tracking system): By January 2006, the current tracking system will be modified and posted in the Tucson and Phoenix offices so staff know when court hearings occur. Reports are generally submitted 30 days after a review; however, a court hearing may occur before the 30 days, so attempts will be made to court-synchronize so the FCRB report is submitted. This has been difficult with the increasing number of cases, making court calendars much more crowded, and periodically, the court changes the date without notifying the FCRB, but efforts are underway to address the issue.

Finding 1/Recommendation 2a (ensure that local boards identify service gaps): The Service Gap Report has been in existence since August 2004 and was developed as a first draft with the intent to meet with stakeholders and modify the report one year later. A meeting was held in August 2005 with stakeholders and the report was modified.

Finding 1/Recommendation 2b (continue efforts to obtain access to CPS' case management system): The FCRB worked with CPS and purchased the appropriate software to access CPS' case management system, which is being installed and should be operational in about one month.

Finding 1/Recommendation 3 (revise the Service Gap Report and obtain input from stakeholders): The stakeholders met in August 2005 to discuss modifications and the report will be modified.

Finding 1/Recommendation 4 (Service Gap Report): With the new modifications, the report will differentiate between service gaps and system problems.

Finding 2/Recommendation 1 (continue efforts to ensure volunteers meet training requirements): The FCRB surveyed volunteers to determine the best method of training, developed new on-line training curriculum, surveyed volunteers for input on training topics, and is sending out quarterly reports on hours of training accumulated and needed for compliance by the end of the year.

Finding 2/Recommendation 2 (diversity plan): Of 23 states in the U.S. with a similar FCRB program, only Oregon has a diversity plan. A copy of that plan was requested, and after it is received, staff will meet with volunteers to implement the plan.

Sunset Factor: The FCRB developed a reporting method and process of further compliance to advise JLBC about Title IV-E funds.

In conclusion, Mr. Stanton noted that a few initiatives currently in place include enhanced training opportunities, Service Gaps and System Problems Finding and Report, data reports to stakeholders, and an educational finding to address the educational needs of the children. He said the FCRB volunteers are extremely dedicated individuals who give up numerous hours of personal time per month to conduct reviews and are dedicated to improving the lives of the children (Presentation, Attachment 3).

Mr. Stanton advised Senator Verschoor that the FCRB reviews every child in out-of-home care for six months or longer to address any issues. Information is provided by CPS, foster parents, and CASAs regarding the status of the child moving toward permanency, education, and whether or not appropriate services are being provided. The children and parents have attorneys who are invited to attend and present information. Each case lasts from 15 minutes to 2 hours. If, for example, a child is abused and the child's needs are not being met, that information is included in the report to the judge with recommendations on what should happen. There have been cases where foster placement is perhaps not the best placement, so a change in placement was recommended. The judges take the reports seriously.

Mr. Stanton related to Senator Gray that the volunteers are from all walks of life. Obtaining volunteers involves recruitment, observation of the FCRB by the volunteer, and then the person is processed to be selected to sit on the FCRB. Within 90 days, the person must attend orientation training and receive six to eight hours of additional training per year.

Senator Gray surmised that the FCRB is one of the largest volunteer groups in the state other than school board members and expressed appreciation for their service to the community.

Mr. Stanton indicated to Mr. Bradley that the process for providing input to the FCRB has been simplified in that one person every day receives phone calls from people who want to leave statements, which are read to the FCRB. Input can also be provided through teleconference calls. He related that staff in the offices in Tucson and Phoenix is almost to the breaking point. A much better job could be done and more information could be provided to the Legislature and others with more resources. Mr. Bradley said he hopes that will be looked at during the upcoming Legislative Session in order to utilize the board to the fullest extent.

Mr. Stanton indicated to Mr. Anderson that CPS provides a case plan and other information to the FCRB. The FCRB also has access to psychological testing, reports from the CASA, etc., all of which are sent to the volunteers prior to the review. During the review, the bulk of information regarding what is happening with the particular child is provided. In running statistics on the data system two or three years ago, only about 20 percent of foster parents attended reviews, so the FCRB focused on encouraging foster parents to attend because they know what is happening with the child. Reviews are held during the day, so whether or not to take the child out of school is something the FCRB goes back and forth on. Some children attend the review, and the volunteers especially enjoy seeing the faces of children affected by their recommendations. More children attend in the summer.

Mr. Stanton advised Senator Soltero that the volunteers do not receive monetary compensation and are only reimbursed for travel during training. Many participate because of concern for the children and do not want to be compensated.

In relation to providing reports to the court in a timely manner, Mr. Stanton advised Senator Verschoor that CPS caseworkers do not provide information prior to the review, which makes it difficult to report a service gap. He believes one reason is the large turnover at CPS. Numerous conversations were held with CPS on the issue and a report was developed that is sent to CPS supervisors noting cases in which information has not been received.

Senator Verschoor noted that there were 121 cases in which a child was not visited by a case manager on a monthly basis, which is a concern since children are dying. He wondered how the FCRB can make a proper recommendation without CPS information. Also, in 617 cases, CPS case managers did not appear before the FCRB in person or by telephone. To top it off, there are problems getting the reports to the court on time, which is being improved. Mr. Stanton replied that the FCRB does not have jurisdiction over DES about providing information, but CPS management is working with staff. The foster parent is present at the hearing, so some information can be gathered, and when the report goes to the court, that is provided to the judge. He added that the 17 percent of reports to the court outside the 30-day window were mostly due to inefficient staff. He believes the statistics would be significantly improved today.

Mr. Stanton related to Senator Johnson that the biological parents are invited to the hearings and show up 15 to 20 percent of the time. CPS provides an address and a notice is sent advising of the hearing with a phone number to call to participate. If the parent is not present, the FCRB asks if there is a change of address so the parents can be notified in the future.

Senator Johnson said she is concerned that not many parents are attending. From the perspective of hearing from parents, she is afraid the parents are not receiving notices. She stated that she and Senator Verschoor are concerned about the fact that CPS caseworkers are not present, which is vital. She questioned how long reports from CPS have not been received in a timely manner. Mr. Stanton answered that it has been an ongoing battle since the beginning of the program, and the FCRB is constantly working with CPS to obtain the reports.

Mr. Stanton advised Senator Johnson that after Oregon's diversity plan is received, it will be reviewed by staff, and a subcommittee will probably be formed to develop the plan. The intent is to have a board that reflects the population of the children that are reviewed.

Senator Johnson expressed concern about children moved from one placement to another, which means the children must change school each time. She wondered if a voucher program could be instituted so the children could remain in the same school. Mr. Stanton responded that a CPS subcommittee is

working on the issue. Often children moved from placement to placement end up not only falling behind, but sometimes do not attend school for weeks or months, which is a concern. He believes the FCRB will be able to provide suggestions in the future.

Senator Johnson commended the FCRB volunteers and courts for their work. She said she hopes the process can be streamlined so accurate information is provided to the courts and proper decisions involving these very vulnerable children can be made.

Public Testimony

Bruce Brannon, Chairman, State Foster Care Review Board, stated that the composition of the FCRB he currently sits on in Mesa has changed over 26 years. Some of the people he serves with include a clinical psychologist, a woman who sells nutritional supplements to health food stores, a retired woman who is about 76 years old and works full-time as an aide at a Mesa high school who is allowed time off to serve, and a woman who owns an auto body shop. There have been policemen, restaurateurs, and retired teachers, so their backgrounds are very diverse.

He indicated that the packets the volunteers receive on each case should include a case plan from CPS, an update from the court from CPS, and any other ancillary information such as results of drug testing, psychological evaluations, reports from school, and report cards. Each time a case is heard, the information is reviewed, and fortunately, notes can be made on a sheet of paper that goes with the case so the progress that has been made can be reviewed six months later. The purpose is permanency for the children, either with the parents who remediated whatever situation brought the child into care, guardianship, adoption, or relative placement.

Regarding the educational feature, Mr. Brannon noted that discussions were held with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) about having a thumbnail sketch that travels with the child through the system so the ultimate provider of educational services knows the needs and background of the child in order to best serve the child. Part of the concern and one of the findings on education is if the child has an individual educational plan (IEP). In changing schools, some things get lost in the shuffle, so maybe the child needs tutoring and perhaps that is something the FCRB can help provide. The power the Board has is to listen to all interested parties and make a recommendation to the court. Each case is heard by the court at least once per year, more than likely twice, and in some counties, three or four times, but the FCRBs do research for the courts. If there is a very serious situation that needs immediate attention, the program specialist and administrators are asked to move the case forward in front of a judge quickly so action can be taken.

Senator Johnson noted that hearings were held for the last six to seven months where many families talked about different issues, but it appears there has been some embellishment, lying, sometimes bias, and power plays by a small percentage of CPS caseworkers, investigators, and supervisors. She wondered how the FCRB knows the information from CPS is truthful and accurate. Mr. Brannon responded that is a matter of judgment. The volunteers get to know caseworkers who stay around long enough. It is like any other business where a small percentage is not fitted to the job, but the majority does as accurate a job as possible with a heavy workload and growing population. When the FCRB was established, DES/CPS did not want to have anything to do with it, but there is a much more cooperative attitude now with everyone working together for the betterment and permanent placement of the child. He believes the CPS workers are honest and earnest in their efforts and try to do their best. There are exceptions, but his experience has been very positive.

Senator Johnson related a case in which a child was removed from the grandparents because CPS thought the grandparents were aware of but did not report abuse that occurred in a different home

setting. A few months later, a note was made in the CPS file that the grandparents did not know about the abuse and desperately wanted the child; however, the child was not returned to the grandparents and is now out of state with a paternal grandmother who had never been around the child. If the FCRB saw a mistake was made that was not brought to the judge's attention during adjudication by CPS, even though the Legislature asked that it be brought to the judge's attention, she wondered if the FCRB could do anything about it. Mr. Brannon answered that he is not sure the FCRB would have been able to detect interplay between whether someone knew something at some time or did not and what the reaction and action would have been by CPS.

Tracy Candelaria, Foster Care Review Board, Apache County; Member, State Foster Care Review Board, relayed to Senator Johnson that she believes parents who attend the meetings are complying, want their children back, and attend the required programs. Parents who do not attend were notified and choose not to attend because they are not complying. She believes the FCRB is very important and a lot of work, but the volunteers participate because they care.

Discussion/Recommendation

Senator Soltero moved that the Committee of Reference recommend to the Legislature that the Arizona Foster Care Review Board be continued for 10 years.

Senator Johnson moved a substitute motion that the Committee of Reference recommend to the Legislature that the Arizona Foster Care Review Board be continued for five years.

Senator Johnson said the legislators only serve an eight-year term limit if they are fortunate enough to be elected during that time, so to give 10-year recommendations to agencies and boards is not wise. There should be some semblance of continuity, and with a five-year continuation some people who experienced this review would still be around when the next hearing takes place.

Senator Soltero acknowledged that there may be some problems, but he did not see strong evidence that the FCRBs are having major problems. He is concerned about the Auditor General and others having to go through this process again in five years.

Senator Johnson responded that it is not that she believes there are major problems, but it is incumbent upon the legislators as watchdogs for the citizens of Arizona to oversee programs properly, which is very difficult when brand new people are not aware of issues brought up in the previous review.

Question was called on the substitute motion that the Committee of Reference recommend to the Legislature that the Arizona Foster Care Review Board be continued for five years. The motion failed.

Question was called on the original motion that the Committee of Reference recommend to the Legislature that the Foster Care Review Board be continued for 10 years. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 4-3-1-2 (Attachment 4).

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Presentation by Office of the Auditor General

Melanie Chesney, Director, Performance Audit Division, Office of the Auditor General, stated that

Attachment C



Supreme Court

Ruth V. McGregor
Chief Justice

STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

David K. Byers
Administrative Director
Of the Courts

September 19, 2005

Courtney Riddle
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Ms Riddle:

Per Representative Hershberger's request in his letter dated September 8, 2005, please find enclosed the Foster Care Review Board's response to the four factors, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2954 F. Also enclosed, per the request, are copies of the state board's minutes from the past year.

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 602-542-9409 or Caroline Lauth-Owens at 602-542-9408.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Stanton".

William Stanton
Director of Dependent Children Services

Enclosure

cc: David K. Byers, Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
Caroline Lauth-Owens, Program Manager, FCRB

1. An identification of the problem or the needs that the agency is intended to address.

It has often been said that the Government's ability to take away a person's child is a power second only to the death penalty. Such power requires systems of checks and balances to ensure that these types of decisions are made soundly with as much information and input as possible.

The Foster Care Review Board was established by the Legislature in 1978 to address concerns that Arizona's foster children were being "lost" in the system and as a result, were staying too long in care; that they were not receiving appropriate medical care; and that foster parents were not receiving adequate pay to ensure the daily needs of the children were being met.

The Foster Care Review Board was created as an independent reviewer that serves in an oversight capacity and reviews, at least once every six months, the case of each child in foster care. The purpose of these reviews is to:

- determine and advise the juvenile court of the adequacy of efforts and progress toward placement of the child in a permanent home;
- encourage and facilitate the return of each dependent child to his/her family whenever appropriate and possible;
- And assist in informing parents and others of their rights and responsibilities regarding a dependent child in foster care.

2. A statement, the extent practicable, in quantitative and qualitative terms, of the objectives of such agency and its anticipated accomplishments.

A.R.S. 8-515.03 establishes the objectives/purposes of the local FCRB as follows:

1. "Review within six months of placement and at least once every six months thereafter the case of each child who remains in out-of-home placement and who is the subject of a dependency action to determine what efforts have been made by the division and the agency with which the child has been placed to carry out the case plan for the permanent placement of such child....."
2. "Allow a child's parents and grandparents to attend the local foster care review board's review of the case. The parent or grandparent may be accompanied at the review by an advocate of the parent or grandparent's choice."
3. "Review any case assigned by the juvenile court for early review of the case plan within sixty days after the removal of a child from that child's home."
4. "Submit to the juvenile court within thirty days following the review its findings and recommendations regarding the efforts and progress made by the

division and agency to carry out the case plan, together with any other recommendations it chooses to make regarding the child.....”

5. “Encourage and facilitate the timely return of children to their natural parents or, if the board finds that one or more of the grounds listed in section 8-533 may exist, encourage the appropriate agency to initiate such procedures as would make the child eligible for adoption, followed by a maximum effort by the agency to place the child for adoption.”

6. “Encourage the division and all agencies involved in placing children in out-of-home placement to exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent plans for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is determined to be infeasible or impossible.”

7. “Promote and encourage the division and all agencies involved in placing children in foster care to maximize stability and family continuity for children in foster care by discouraging unnecessary changes in the placement of foster children and by recruiting foster parents who may be suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.”

8. “Assist the division and agencies in informing natural parents, foster parents and other interested parties of their rights and responsibilities with respect to any child in out-of-home placement. Natural parents, foster parents and other interested parties may be involved in the review process when appropriate.”

9. “Make recommendations to the state board regarding foster care policies and procedures as they relate to the children assigned for their review. “

A.R.S. 8-515.04 establishes the objectives/purposes of the state board as follows:

1. The state board should meet no less than twice annually;
 2. Review and coordinate the activities of the local boards;
 3. Establish training programs for local board members, including periodic in-service training
- 3. An identification of any other agencies having similar, conflicting or duplicate objectives, and an explanation of the manner in which the agency avoids duplication or conflict with other such agencies.**

No other agency has been identified that has similar, conflicting or duplicative objectives. There may be several agencies/programs that work and advocate for the best interests of children in care, however, none of them serve in an “oversight” capacity.

4. An assessment of the consequences of eliminating the agency or of consolidating it with another agency.

The Foster Care Review Board is the sole "independent reviewer" of child welfare cases. Because it assists Arizona in meeting the requirements of PL96-272, DES is able to claim federal dollars each year. The programs termination or consolidation with another agency would result in DES losing its additional funding as well as the elimination of the program's legislative intent; the elimination of an independent review system; and the elimination of a strong child welfare reform advocacy effort. For the public, the elimination of the Foster Care Review Board would mean the exclusion, to a great extent, of citizen participation in child welfare reform and the elimination of a non-threatening forum at which to provide information and share various perspectives of those involved in a dependency action. For the children who are the subject of these actions, it would mean fewer people tracking the progress of their case, fewer people advocating for their permanency, and the elimination of the only constant in the child's life.

The specific effects of eliminating the program are outlined below.

- ◆ Because the Foster Care Review Board assists Arizona in meeting the requirements of PL96-272, DES is able to claim federal dollars each year. Elimination of the program would result in DES losing its additional funding.
- ◆ Eliminating the one constant in a child's life. Traditionally, FCRB members have had the longest involvement with each case and the elimination of the program would eliminate that important contact and continuity.
- ◆ Eliminating an external independent review system that keeps all parties (including DES) accountable to fulfill the case plan objectives.
- ◆ Without the citizen review system, this type of case review would fall either to the agency, thus creating a system in which the agency who creates the case plan is responsible for monitoring its own plan, or to courts, thus causing more expense and work to the already over burdened court system; and again, eliminating the independent review.



Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Charles E. Jones
Chief Justice

David K. Byers
Administrative Director
of the Courts

TO: FCRB State Board Members

FROM: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Program Manager *CHO*
Foster Care Review Board Program

DATE: August 6, 2004

RE: September 11, 2004 State Board Meeting

STATE BOARD MEETING:

The State Foster Care Review Board will be meeting on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington, in **Conference Rooms 119 A and B**, at **11:00 a.m.** and will conclude by **3:30 p.m.** Enclosed are the minutes of the May 21, 2004 meeting.

LUNCH



A luncheon has been arranged for September 11, 2004. The speaker will present at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

Since we will be ordering lunch, it is imperative that you R.S.V.P. your attendance by September 2, 2004.

LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

You have been provided this State Board information for the following reasons:

1. As a mechanism to inform you of State Board meetings and activities. Local board members are always welcome to attend. As a local board member, you only need to R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend.
2. Local board members are encouraged to participate in State Board meetings, however, local board members do not have voting privileges.
3. If you are interested in a committee project, please contact Caroline Lutt-Owens at (602) 542-9408.

(See Volunteer Manual, Page II-10 for further information
about Local Board Member involvement in the State Board.)

(Over)

State Board Members, Please submit the attached R.S.V.P. form by September 2, 2004 or R.S.V.P. by phone to Cathy Metrick (602) 542-9402. You may also e-mail cmetrick@supreme.sp.state.az.us.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All committee agendas and meeting materials will be distributed at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Suite 128 FCRB Main Conference Room (roundtable).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The Community Outreach Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB 2.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Continuing Education Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 230.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Committee will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB Main Conference Room.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Enclosed is a list of Hotel/Motel Accommodations located near the State Courts Building. **Since the rates are subject to change, please check all rates when making reservations. The current state allowance for lodging in the Phoenix area is \$90.00 per night. Also remember to ask for state government rate when making reservations.**

The following overnight allowances for participation at the State Board meeting will be made, when necessary:

One Night Stay

Coconino
Gila
Pima
Pinal
Yavapai

Two Night Stay

Apache Mohave
Cochise Navajo
Graham Santa Cruz
Greenlee
La Paz
Yuma

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

September 11, 2004

STATE COURTS BUILDING

Training Room 119 A & B

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch/Speaker |
| 1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. | I. Call to Order..... Bruce Brannan
Approval of Minutes - May 21, 2004
Introductions/Announcements |
| 1:15 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. | II. Committee Reports
A. Executive Committee
B. Advocacy Committee
C. Community Outreach Committee Report
D. Continuing Education Committee |
| 1:55 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | IV. Old Business |
| 2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | V. New Business |
| 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. | VI. Program Manager's Report.....Caroline Lantt-Owens |
| 3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. | VII. Division/AOC Report.....Bill Stanton |
| 3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | VIII. Call to Public.....Chairperson |
| 3:30 p.m. | IX. Adjournment.....Chairperson |

R. S. V. P.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

(8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

(9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ No, I will be unable to attend

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

(9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ No, I will be unable to attend

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

(9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ No, I will be unable to attend

SPEAKER, LUNCHEON AND STATE BOARD MEETING

(11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ No, I will be unable to attend

Board Member: _____

County: _____ Board #: _____

Day Telephone Number: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

**STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
MAY 21, 2004**

SAN MARCOS HOTEL, CHANDLER, AZ

MINUTES

Present:	<u>Maricopa</u>	<u>Coconino</u>	<u>Graham</u>	<u>Cochise</u>
	Ellen Altman	Carole Cohen	Ann Johnson	Gene Manring
	Bruce Brannan			
	George Bressler	<u>Yuma</u>	<u>La Paz</u>	<u>Gila</u>
	John Cannon			
	Anne Donahoe		<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>
	Barbara Hanigsberg			
	Nancy Harrell	<u>Apache</u>	<u>Greenlee</u>	<u>Santa Cruz</u>
	Connie Koch			
	Marilyn Miller		Sarah O'Brien	Tom Tellez
	Mitzi Pinsly			
	Sandra Robertson	<u>Pinal</u>	<u>Yavapai</u>	<u>At-Large</u>
	Linda Smith			
	Jim Treece	Toni Carlton		Pamela Frye
	Sylvia Van Arsdale			Donald Groth
		<u>Navajo</u>	<u>Mohave</u>	Joe Jacober
	<u>Pima</u>			Rachel Oesterle
		Thelma Gray		Beth Rosenberg
	Paul Hanson			Allyn Watson
	Shirlee Haines			
	Barbara Nelson			
	Theresa Ryan			

Staff: Christopher Corman, Caroline Lutt-Owens, Connie Lopez, Bill Stanton

Local Board Members: William Shlensky

Public Members: Representative Bradley, Denise Barker, Pat Briggs, Nancy Miller, Vernon McCurry, Mike Krasner

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOM TELLEZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. CAROLE COHEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED (0405).

II. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bruce welcomed the members of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers, Pat Briggs, Denise Barker, and Nancy Miller

III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to address.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. State Board Goals:

Bruce explained that the Executive Committee met on April 24, 2004 and developed five State Board Goals for 2004. The goals were discussed and presented for approval.

1. Consistent with the Governor's Child Reform Action Plan, create a 10th Finding with supporting elements that reports identified service gaps or system problems so that they can be provided to CPS administrators on a quarterly basis.
2. Focus on Substance Abuse training as a two-year CEC committee goal and develop a training delivery method that is conducive to rural boards.
3. Build upon last year's efforts of connecting with the community by increasing the involvement of volunteers in this charge.
4. Develop a board member recruitment and implementation plan to assist in decreasing the current vacancy rate and continue recruiting at an increased level.
5. Conduct a program wide review of the Finding and Elements Guidebook as established.

LINDA SMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2004 STATE BOARD GOALS AS STATED. CAROLE COHEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED (0406).

B. Finding 10:

Bruce explained that Finding 10 was developed in accordance with the Governor's Action Plan 6.0, which "directs CPS to contact the State Foster Care Review Board about how the Board, consistent with its oversight functions, can advise through its quarterly meetings, CPS administrators regarding service gaps or system problems it or the local review boards identify as part of their review of CPS cases, particularly as to areas where CPS does not currently meet federal standards."

Bruce and Carole have been appointed to serve on the oversight committee established by the Governor's Office. In order to provide the necessary feedback to this committee about the service gaps or system problems, an Ad Hoc Committee developed a finding 10 to gather the information. CPS staff participated in this Ad Hoc Committee.

The group discussed elements and made some revisions.

Beth suggested that a statement be included that states: "The child is dually adjudicated and required services are not being provided and/or coordinated."

The committee agreed to the following elements under Finding #10 and acknowledged that all Findings and Elements will be reviewed as part of the State Board goal.:

FINDING 10:

The Board makes a determination that there are no significant service gaps or system problems in this case.

The elements to be considered when making this determination are:

FOR THE AGENCY:

The Agency has not submitted the referral to the RBHA.

Agency staffing problems are impeding service provisions.

Changes in case manager(s) is impeding service provisions.

The Agency is not in compliance with submitting its required progress reports and/or case plans to the FCRB.

The child has not been visited by the case manager on at least a monthly basis.

Visits between the child(ren) and parents/siblings have not been facilitated by the case manager.

The case manager did not appear either in-person or telephonically at the FCRB.

The child is age 14 and there are no tasks/services in the case plan which will facilitate his/her transition into a case plan goal of independent living.

The youth's independent living needs are not being adequately met.

The child(ren)'s medical and/or dental care/coverage has not been adequately arranged.

FOR OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

The RBHA has denied the requested service(s).

The RHBA is not proving the required services.

The child's therapeutic needs are not being met through the services the RBHA is providing..

The recommended treatment service(s) is not adequately available.

A waiting list for counseling is inhibiting service delivery.

Residential Substance Abuse treatment is not adequately available.

Out-Patient Substance Abuse treatment is not adequately available.

The parent is incarcerated and the recommended services are not being provided.

The child is in detention or in the custody of the ADJC, and the recommended services are not being provided

The child is dually adjudicated and the services are not be coordinated and/or provided.

A waiting list is inhibiting an appropriate placement.

Bill stated that the information gathered through finding 10 will go directly to the Governor's office.

Bruce reminded the board that it is not the intention to micromanage CPS but to gather the information to let them know how things stand.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE FINDING #10 WITH THE ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS. MOTION WAS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED. (0407).

Bruce stated that it will be important for the Advocacy Committee to watch for the changes that will occur and please report back to the state board.

V. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Caroline delivered the following report:

The program is involved in a strong recruitment effort. Currently the vacancy rate is 13%. PSAs have been sent out to various counties. Recently Bill appeared on a local cable TV show in Pinal County. Caroline requested anyone with recruitment suggestions please contact staff

The FCRB and the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation worked together in Pima County on a Sibling Reunion Day on May 15. About 72 children attended. Maricopa County will hold a second annual Sibling Day in October.

Maricopa CPS reports are being emailed to the FCRB. Coconino is also emailing their reports. Mohave is beginning the process. Cochise and Pima Counties are next. Once this is running smoothly, the plan is to begin Phase 2, emailing FCRB recommendation reports to CPS. Phase 3 will entail mailing the FCRB recommendation reports to the courts. This will require more work since they are on another server.

A new Maricopa Board opened recently in the east valley, as well as another new board in Phoenix .

The comment card and survey form has been reinstituted. Elizabeth Jacobs, a board member in Maricopa County developed the form. She and her students also developed the instructions that are read to the interested parties during the board. This was done so there would be consistency throughout the survey process. Elizabeth and her students will gather the information for analysis and provide the results to the program. The surveys are copied before they are forwarded to Elizabeth. These copies will be available for the auditors if they are interested.

We believe the Sunset Audit will to begin within the next 90 days. The FCRB Program is due to expire in 2006. The Auditor Generals' Office completes an audit of the program to determine if it is performing effectively and delivers this report to the legislature. The legislature then decides whether or not to extend the program.

VI. DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Bill Stanton delivered the following report:

The division staff have worked on numerous projects this past month. During May, the CASA Program sponsored an Older Youth Conference held at the San Marcos. This CASA training focused on working with older youth. There is a strong focus in CASA to mentoring older youth and connecting them with people in the community so when they leave the system, they succeed.

A Judges' Training on jury trials was held in Tucson the second week of May. A prosecutor, a judge, an attorney who represents parents and children, and a Guardian ad Litem from Texas presented. Currently jury trials for termination of parental rights are held in Texas.

The first division databook has been completed and will be available on the website. It contains information on CASA, Court Improvement, and the Foster Care Review Board.

There have been 10 jury trials in Arizona. Nine of the juries terminated parental rights and only one jury did not. The division plans to track the data on "bench trials" where a judge hears the case and "jury trials" where the jury makes the decision. Last month statewide there were 100 bench trials on termination of parental rights; 97 went to termination and 3 were dismissed

before the trial occurred. The jury trials are causing problems in the system since they last three to five days, and case worker and attorneys must be in court. There have been no appeals yet.

The Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS) is about 20 years old, and there is a project to rewrite this program. When this occurs, Dependent Children Automated Tracking System (DCATS) will be merged with JOLTS. The data will be on one system and readily available for dually adjudicated children. It will be a three to four year project. Rob Shelley from Court Improvement has been assigned to work on this project.

The house passed the budget and it has gone to the senate. There was no additional funding for CASA or FCRB. This is a problem since the numbers are increasing. Staff will work and make the necessary adjustments to handle the increase. The budget for fy '06 is being developed and a request will be made for additional staff.

The Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) project is in the planning stages. This would allow all documents to be scanned and stored on a server. In the future this would make it possible to receive packets electronically and thereby save on postage costs. This is about two or three years away.

The FCRB and Children' Action Alliance have partnered in the Fostering Results Project. Funding has been received to provide training for judges. Presenters from out of state will provide training at the Judicial Conference in June. They will address the Pew Commission recommendations, and a panel of five judges will respond to these recommendations and give their feedback.

Bill introduced Representative Bradley who attended a portion of the state board.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No public attendee wished to address the board.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.



Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Charles E. Jones
Chief Justice

David K. Byers
Administrative Director
of the Courts

TO: FCRB State Board Members

FROM: Caroline Lauth-Owens, Program Manager *CL*
Foster Care Review Board Program

DATE: November 1, 2004

RE: December 4, 2004 State Board Meeting

STATE BOARD MEETING:

The State Foster Care Review Board will be meeting on Saturday, December 4, 2004 at the State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington, in **Conference Rooms 119 A and B**, at **11:00 a.m.** and will conclude by **3:30 p.m.** Enclosed are the minutes of the September 11, 2004 meeting.

LUNCH



A luncheon has been arranged for December 4, 2004. Katherine Guffey and Linda Johnson will present on the DES safety and risk assessment process. The speakers will present at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

Since we will be ordering lunch, it is imperative that you R.S.V.P. your attendance by November 22, 2004

LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

You have been provided this State Board information for the following reasons:

1. As a mechanism to inform you of State Board meetings and activities. Local board members are always welcome to attend. As a local board member, you only need to R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend.
2. Local board members are encouraged to participate in State Board meetings, however, local board members do not have voting privileges.
3. If you are interested in a committee project, please contact Caroline Lauth-Owens at (602) 542-9408.

(See Volunteer Manual, Page II-10 for further information
about Local Board Member involvement in the State Board.)

(Over)

State Board Members, Please submit the attached R.S.V.P. form by November 22, 2004 or R.S.V.P. by phone to Cathy Metrick (602) 542-9402. You may also e-mail cmetrick@supreme.sp.state.az.us.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All committee agendas and meeting materials will be distributed at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Suite 128 FCRB Main Conference Room (roundtable).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The Community Outreach Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB 2.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Continuing Education Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 230.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Committee will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB Main Conference Room.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Enclosed is a list of Hotel/Motel Accommodations located near the State Courts Building. **Since the rates are subject to change, please check all rates when making reservations. The current state allowance for lodging in the Phoenix area is \$90.00 per night. Also remember to ask for state government rate when making reservations.**

The following overnight allowances for participation at the State Board meeting will be made, when necessary:

One Night Stay

Coconino
Gila
Pima
Pinal
Yavapai

Two Night Stay

Apache
Cochise
Graham
Greenlee
La Paz
Yuma

Mohave
Navajo
Santa Cruz

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

December 4, 2004

STATE COURTS BUILDING

Training Room 119 A & B

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch/Speaker |
| 1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. | I. Call to Order..... Bruce Brannan
Approval of Minutes - September 11, 2004
Introductions/Announcements |
| 1:15 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. | II. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee
B. Advocacy Committee
C. Community Outreach Committee Report
D. Continuing Education Committee |
| 1:55 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | IV. Old Business |
| 2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | V. New Business

▪ Comments on Chief Justice's Proposed Strategic Plan |
| 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. | VI. Program Manager's Report.....Caroline Lauth-Owens

▪ United Way Video Clip |
| 3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. | VII. Division/AOC Report.....Bill Stanton |
| 3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | VIII. Call to Public.....Chairperson |
| 3:30 p.m. | IX. Adjournment.....Chairperson |

**STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
SEPTEMBER 11 2004**

MINUTES

Present:	<u>Maricopa</u>	<u>Coconino</u>	<u>La Paz</u>	<u>Gila</u>
	Bruce Brannan	<u>Yuma</u>	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>
	George Bressler			
	John Cannon	Thelma Lundy	<u>Greenlee</u>	<u>Santa Cruz</u>
	Nancy Harrell			
	Elizabeth Jacobs	<u>Apache</u>		Tom Tellez
	Connie Koch		<u>Yavapai</u>	
	Mitzi Pinsly			<u>At-Large</u>
	Linda Smith		Gladys Alten de Costa	
	Jim Treece	<u>Pinal</u>		C. Eileen Bond
	Sylvia VanArsdale		<u>Mohave</u>	Pamela Frye
				Donald Groth
	<u>Pima</u>	<u>Navajo</u>	Charles Flagge	Joe Jacober
	Gary Gustafson	Thelma Gray	<u>Cochise</u>	Beth Rosenberg
	Shirlee Haines			Rachel Oesterle
	Paul Hanson	<u>Graham</u>	Gene Manring	Allyn Watson
	Jan Mumford			
	Barbara Nelson	Ann Johnson		
	Theresa Ryan			

Staff: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Carissa Moore, Charles Gray, Sandy Guizzetti, Connie Lopez, Linda Bednarek, Sarah Goodman

Local Board Members: Earl Haines, Peter Chavez, Barbara Parham, Jim Williams, Robert Carter

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The State Board Minutes of May 21, 2004 are amended to read Eileen Bond, At-Large member from Yavapai County, present.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Executive Committee:

Bruce Brannan delivered the following report:

The committee granted attendance waivers to the following local board members: Deborah Lana, MC 30; Adelia Sommer, Pima 12; Yvonne Morris, Pima 20. A six-month leave of absence was granted to Barbara Hanigsberg, MC 32.

A card to Barbara Hanigsberg was circulated for board members to sign.

Finding #10 was approved by the Committee of Juvenile Court Judges in June. The FCRB began using Finding 10 in July 2004. The statistics for the initial six week period, July 1 through August 20, 2004, have been collected. The statistics are not ready for publication, but a meeting has been scheduled with DES and DHS for September 29, 2004 to present the statistics to them. The Governor's Oversight Committee met on August 27, but the statistics were not presented at that time. They will be presented at the October meeting.

Bruce delivered the following statistics:

- Out of about 500 cases, the FCRB answered that there were service gaps or system problems in 397 instances. In 96 of the cases, the agency was not in compliance with submitting the required progress reports or case plans to the FCRB.

The Executive Committee felt that in an effort to refine this finding another element should be added to reflect that the board sometimes receives the reports the day of the review. It was agreed that after meeting with DES and DHS, the staff will discuss a possible element and bring it to the State Board in December for discussion and possible approval. It will also need to be approved by the COJC.

- In 58 instances, the case manager did not appear in person or telephonically at the FCRB.
- In 29 instances, the RHBA did not provide the required services.
- In 39 instances, therapeutic needs were not met by the services provided by the RHBA.
- In 36 instances, the recommended treatment service(s) were not adequately available.

Gary Gustafson asked that a revision be made to the Finding 10 since it is clumsy in the way it appears with the underline. Caroline asked that he call her, and they will discuss this minor revision. Bruce reminded everyone that State Board Goal #5 for this year is to review all of the findings and revise those that need work. He asked anyone with questions to contact staff.

An ad hoc committee volunteered to work on the FCRB Volunteer Recruitment plan. They met at the AOC on August 7 and developed an action plan to address improvement of the program's outreach efforts. Copies of the plan were distributed to the State Board members. Bruce asked everyone to look it over and see him or staff if they wish to discuss it further.

Bruce gave the following dates for the 2005 State Board Meetings: March 5, 2005; June 4, 2005; September 10, 2005; December 3, 2005.

The committee discussed the recent article concerning the jury that found in favor of the child and against the Agency. Bruce clarified these children were not in foster care. Bruce stated the Executive Committee stressed the importance that if a child is to be returned to the parents, and the FCRB members have concerns or reservations, these must be expressed to the court in the report.

B. Advocacy Committee:

Beth Rosenberg presented the following report:

Beth provided an update on the highlights of the CPS Reform Watch. Printed copies were also available. This is distributed electronically by DES monthly.

DES hired 104 CPS workers and additional support staff by the end of FY '04 and the staff is in training. DES is currently working to house the new staff. CPS allegedly received 75 new positions this year, but did not receive sufficient funding, so they are on hold.

Stipend payments for bilingual staff and those with MSW degrees have been implemented. They are working on a stipend for those caseworkers who do six or more CPS investigations per month.

A number of the counties have developed joint investigation protocols. Training needs to take place and hopefully FCRB can participate. As of July 1, 2004 CPS is investigating all reports of abuse and neglect. If cases need services in or out of home, CPS is then referring them to Family Builders. These referral have been slow.

Implementation of the In-Home Intervention Program has not occurred. There is confusion as to which cases would be appropriate for this program.

The CPS Central Registry which would be used to check if there is a history of abuse and neglect, is being implemented by DES for their employees. There are monetary and technical difficulties preventing them from spreading this to contract providers.

Behavioral Health assessments are now completed within 24 hours, but the services are slow in coming.

CPS caseloads are high. DES stated there are an 100 additional kids in care each month. Maricopa County caseworkers are carrying about 27 kids and the national standard is 15 kids.

The increase in the foster care rate of \$7.50 per child per day has been implemented. DES did not request funds to increase the monthly maintenance payment if you are on

subsidized guardianship or move to subsidized guardianship, or if you move to adoption subsidy. This will be an issue. If you are a new adoptive family you can receive the increased maintenance rate, but if you adopted prior to December 2003, your rate remains the same. You do not get the cost of living increase.

Linda Bednarek shared a letter from a FCRB volunteer regarding children returning to the system. DES implemented a safety assessment tool last year, and they have recently implemented a risk assessment tool to help determine if the child is safe and what are the risk factors in the home. Beth suggested that at the December State Board Meeting someone from DES could present on the Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment tools and also give an overview of the Child and Family Services Review and their Program Improvement Plan.

The committee discussed the coming elections. They also discussed proposing legislation regarding legal representation for foster families and relatives in court hearings, and obtaining birth certificates when kids come into care without this. They would like to possibly do some administrative advocacy with DES to determine if this can be resolved.

Children's Action Alliance worked with Bill Stanton and Court Improvement staff to develop a paper about the juvenile court process and the reforms that have occurred during the past ten years to improve the process for dependent children. A copy was distributed. The final copy will be distributed to legislators, court personnel and others.

C. Community Outreach Committee:

Allyn Watson delivered the following report:

The committee have developed a number of ideas and it is time to develop a marketing plan to determine which ideas are most effective.

Adz Phoenix is an organization of young business men who pick one charitable organization to support with funding. The Foster and Adoptive Parents Organization has applied for a grant. If they receive the grant, it has been agreed they would assist our program to recruit Foster Care Review Board volunteers and foster parents.

Recruitment efforts have been extended to the community churches and foster parents.

Brandie Gray is working with bookstores. A bookmark has been developed that will be distributed to the bookstores.

Carolyn Smith has been working with two school districts. The plan is that they would send recruitment information home with the children.

Stacy Molison is working with a variety of service organizations to recruit volunteers.

Gary Gustafson and Maeve Robertson have developed a PowerPoint presentation that will be available for anyone who would like to use it.

Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents is having a Courage for the Children Awards Dinner Night, Friday October 1, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Joan of Arc Church, 3801 East Greenway.

D. Continuing Education Committee:

Linda Smith delivered the following report:

New Board Member Orientation is scheduled for October 22 and 23, 2004. This training is held quarterly.

Yesenia Gutierrez shared information on the Removal Review Program. She did a number of trainings around the state this year. There is a need for removal review members in Maricopa and Pima counties.

Linda reminded everyone that the training requirement this year is 8 hours. There is a standing column in the DCSD Newsletter devoted to training. The group was asked to please contact Carissa Moore if they have training ideas.

The first substance abuse training module is scheduled to be on line about September 18, 2004. Board members will be notified how to access it when it becomes available.

The committee brainstormed and discussed new goals for 2005. The new goals will be presented at the December State Board Meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Gustafson stated that he is concerned that children do not often give input at the FCRB hearing. They may be in school or too shy, etc. He would propose that a form be developed for the child to complete and forward the FCRB. It was suggested that the form be a simple design with space enough for children who can to write the comments, concerns, etc. It should also include questions with check off boxes for those children who have difficulty putting their concerns into writing. It may also provide an opportunity for the child to address a concern that has been overlooked during the review and assist other interested parties to add their comments. Gary suggested that a group of FCRB volunteers, staff, case managers, and teens who are in the system meet to brainstorm ideas.

Sandy informed the committee that she has touched base with Gary and when Christopher returns from vacation, she, Christopher, Gary and at least one other FCRB

volunteer will meet. The results of this meeting will be presented to the FCRB supervisors.

Caroline stated that Sandy Guizzetti and Christopher Corman have agreed to work on this project. It was suggested that this form could be made available on line. It was also suggested that a simpler form could be developed for younger children.

Eileen Bond suggested that the FCRB may want to work with CASA as a way to get the forms to the children.

Gary also informed the State Board that the Virginia Department of Health has a billboard campaign around that state. It is entitled, "Isn't she a little young?" It concerns 30 year old men taking advantage of 13, 14 or 15 year old girls and impregnating them. Virginia is concentrating on the peer pressure aspect and education programs in schools. Gary proposed that the State Board endorse this as a concern of the FCRB because it impacts our children. He suggested that the State Board write to the Arizona Department of Health and inform them that this is a problem that the FCRB encounters frequently, and they should take a look at it.

The State Board discussed the issue and felt that this is a social issue not directly dealing with foster children. Linda Smith suggested asking CPS to spread the message.

Bruce felt that we may want to contact the Department of Health to see if they are addressing the issue. Possibly they keep some statistics and information. Caroline agreed to assign someone to research this information and report at the December State Board.

The group discussed the difference between in-home interventions and in-home dependencies. In-home interventions are a result of new legislation. Children stay in the home and CPS actively monitors the family according to a schedule that is set out in the original plan to which the parent agrees. The in-home intervention does not involve adjudication of dependency and there is no review because the child is not in care. CPS may, though, at any time during the intervention remove the children if they deem this is appropriate, and amend it to be a dependency.

Gladys was concerned about children involved in in-home dependencies where the child is returned home but the case is not dismissed. The FCRB board requests that these cases be monitored for six to eight months. What happens in these cases? Beth Rosenberg stated that it is important that we have a presentation about the CPS Risk Assessment tool. Beth stated that DES and the caseworker should be making this assessment, and they should be going into the home to monitor that the child is safe. Eileen Bond suggested that when CPS returns the child home and the plan is to monitor, it is important that the written plan explain what monitoring means. This would provide a written plan for the Court to review.

Beth explained that not every case has access to a family reunification team, a team that comes into the home to monitor. The reunification team is used in more intensive circumstances.

Gladys asked if it would be possible to ask the judge not to dismiss a case until he has received a final review and recommendation report from the FCRB no older than one or two months. Eileen stated many times the child has been returned home for three to six months and after this period, the case is dismissed. When the child is returned home the FCRB does not review the case. Eileen suggested that the FCRB recommendation state that the case should not be dismissed in less thanmonths, or until these goals are met. Caroline reminded everyone that if the board has concerns, it is important that they be stated in the recommendation so that it is documented.

III. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Caroline delivered the following report:

The last child count was 7,893 children. It is an 1,100 child increase since September 2003. There is a need for additional boards and volunteers, specifically Pinal County.

Sibling Reunion Day will be held October 2. This event is a joint effort between the FCRB and Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation. This event brings children who are in foster care and who are in different placements together for one day. It is a day to enjoy with their siblings. There is a need for volunteers to assist with this function.

The Sunset Audit has not begun. The Auditor General's Office is backlogged. A manual with information on the program, including the improvements over the past ten years, has been forwarded to the Auditor General's Office.

The latest statistics on training hours for volunteers indicate that 42% have no training credits on record. Training records have been distributed to volunteers. Caroline asked that state board members remind their board members that it is important to fulfill the training requirement of 8 hours this year. Credits can be obtained through reading materials in the resource library, videos, on-line training, conferences or workshops. CASA training is also counted. She explained that according to a procedure approved by the Committee on Juvenile Courts, a letter will be sent to the judge in the volunteers' counties if they are out of compliance.

The survey comment cards are being distributed to interested parties during the boards. The six-month survey will continue until the end of September. Elizabeth Jacobs will collect and analyze the data. Caroline has made copies of the surveys for the auditors if they wish to review them.

The East Valley FCRB boards will remain at the Gilbert Municipal Court through 2005.

The Pew Commission on Foster Care was launched in May 2003. Its mission was to develop recommendations to improve outcomes for children in the foster care system. Earlier this year they released their report to the courts. The group watched a video about the Pew Commission recommendations.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No one responded.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

Staff will research information concerning older men impregnating younger girls, and will contact the agency to determine if they keep data and statistics on this. A report will be presented to the State Board in December.



Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Charles E. Jones
Chief Justice

David K. Byers
Administrative Director
of the Courts

TO: FCRB State Board Members

FROM: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Program Manager *Caroline Lutt-Owens*
Foster Care Review Board Program

DATE: February 1, 2005

RE: March 5, 2005 State Board Meeting

STATE BOARD MEETING:

The State Foster Care Review Board will be meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at the State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington, in Conference Rooms 119 A and B, at 11:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:30 p.m. Enclosed are the minutes of the December 4, 2004 meeting.

LUNCH



A luncheon has been arranged for March 5, 2005. There will be a presentation 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

Since we will be ordering lunch, it is imperative that you R.S.V.P. your attendance by February 24, 2005

LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

You have been provided this State Board information for the following reasons:

1. As a mechanism to inform you of State Board meetings and activities. Local board members are always welcome to attend. As a local board member, you only need to R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend.
2. Local board members are encouraged to participate in State Board meetings, however, local board members do not have voting privileges.
3. If you are interested in a committee project, please contact Caroline Lutt-Owens at (602) 542-9408.

(See Volunteer Manual, Page II-10 for further information about Local Board Member involvement in the State Board.)

(Over)

State Board Members, Please submit the attached R.S.V.P. form by February 24, 2005 or R.S.V.P. by phone to Cathy Metrick (602) 542-9402. You may also e-mail cmetrick@supreme.sp.state.az.us.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All committee agendas and meeting materials will be distributed at the meeting.

NEW STATE BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION: Orientation training for new members will be held 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Room 119. You will receive an overview of the state board and a short presentation on the three standing committees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Suite 128 FCRB Main Conference Room (roundtable).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The Community Outreach Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB 2.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Continuing Education Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 230.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Committee will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB Main Conference Room.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Enclosed is a list of Hotel/Motel Accommodations located near the State Courts Building. Since the rates are subject to change, please check all rates when making reservations. The current state allowance for lodging in the Phoenix area is \$107.00 per night. Also remember to ask for state government rate when making reservations.

The following overnight allowances for participation at the State Board meeting will be made, when necessary:

One Night Stay

Coconino
Gila
Pima
Pinal
Yavapai

Two Night Stay

Apache
Cochise
Graham
Greenlee
La Paz
Yuma

Mohave
Navajo
Santa Cruz

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

MARCH 5, 2005

STATE COURTS BUILDING

Training Room 119 A & B

AGENDA

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch/Speaker
- 12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. I. Call to OrderBruce Brannan
Approval of Minutes - December 4, 2004
Introductions/Announcements
A sign-up sheet is circulated for state board members to select a committee. Chair selects the committee chairperson after this has been circulated
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. II. Executive Committee Elections
First Ballot – District I, District II, any District but I and II.
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m. III. Committee Reports
A. Executive Committee
B. Advocacy Committee
C. Community Outreach Committee Report
D. Continuing Education Committee
- Second Ballot – Any District**
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Break (Staff rearrange head table)
- Election for Chair and Vice Chair**
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. IV. Nomination taken for State Board Vice Chair (Voting)
- 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. V. Old Business
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. V. New Business
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. VI. Program Manager's Report Caroline Lantt-Owens
- 3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. VII. Division/AOC Report Bill Stanton
- 3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. VIII. Call to Public..... Chairperson
- 3:30 p.m. IX. Adjournment Chairperson

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

DECEMBER 4, 2004

MINUTES

Present: Maricopa

Ellen Altman
Bruce Brannan
George Bressler
Anne Donahoe
Barbara Hanigsberg
Nancy Harrell
Elizabeth Jacobs
Marilyn Miller
Mitzi Pinsly
Sandra Robertson

Linda Smith
Jim Treece
Sylvia Van Arsdale

Pima

Gary Gustafson
Paul Hanson
Jan Mumford
Barbara Nelson

Coconino

Carole Cohen

Yuma

Apache

Tracy Candelaria

Pinal

Navajo

Thelma Gray

Graham

Ann Johnson

La Paz

Vacant Position

Greenlee

Sarah O'Brien

Yavapai

Gladys Alten de Costa

Mohave

Chuck Flagee

Cochise

Gene Manring

Gila

Vacant Position

Santa Cruz

Tom Tellez

At-Large

C. Eileen Bond
Donald Groth
Joe Jacober
Rachel Oesterle
Beth Rosenberg
Allyn Watson

Staff: Bill Stanton, Caroline Lauth-Owens, Christopher Corman, Carissa Moore, Charles Gray, Sandy Guizzetti, Linda Bednarek, Connie Lopez, Maria Lewis, Cathy Metrick

Local Board Members: Robert Carter, Jim Williams, Cheryl Shelley, Karen Bower, Jay Fallar, Betty Davies, Jennifer Stephens-Cortum

Public Members: Bruce Coleman, Shan Hays and Jessica Tucker (Auditor General's Office)

I. Approval of the Minutes:

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PUBLISHED.
MOTION PASSED. (0408)**

II. Introductions:

Caroline introduced the staff from the Auditor General's Office, Shan Hays, Bruce Coleman and Jessica Tucker.

Bruce introduced Tracy Candelaria, the new state board representative from Apache County.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Executive Committee;

Bruce delivered the following report:

An attendance waivers were granted to Connie Koch (MC 13), Nancy Smith (MC 17), Melissa Barringer (Pima 15).

Attendance waiver for David Harmon Navajo County was denied. A letter will be forwarded to the judge for final determination.

A waiver for training credits for Jean Thachyk was tabled. She currently has an attendance waiver, and Christopher will contact her regarding increasing her credits to four credits.

Bruce reviewed the handout on Finding 10 with the State Board. He explained that if you read the chart and compare the number of cases to the number of instances of service gaps, it is obvious that many of the cases had more than one service gap. The information for July through November is now available, and there are trends developing. This information has been presented to the Governor's Commission on CPS Oversight.

Bruce stated that there was a discussion about what is meant by appearing telephonically, i.e., did the interested party phone in previous to the review, or did they actually participate at the review telephonically. It is important that the board have a number to reach the party during the review to obtain the most accurate information for their recommendation to the court.

Christopher stated that a committee will be established within the next 90 days to review all of the findings and elements. At that time they will review moving some of the elements from Finding 10 to Finding 4 and consider additional elements if needed. Bruce reminded the board that information in Finding 10 goes directly to the Governor, CPS Director and the DES Director.

Bruce stated that a letter has been sent to those volunteers who do not have their full training credits. There were approximately 167 letters mailed. As a result a number of volunteers have contacted the staff and forwarded training documentation to be entered. Currently there are about 26% not in compliance and a number of those are short only by one hour or less. All training credits for 2004 must be accounted by December 31.

Caroline stated that Carissa Moore researched the topic of adults engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. This topic was introduced by Gary Gustafson at the September 11 State Board. Gary found that the State of Virginia has a billboard campaign reminding citizens this is a criminal offense. The staff found that the Arizona Department of Health funds a project, "Arizona Rape Prevention and Education Program." This is part of a state effort in preventing and heightening the awareness of sexual violence at all levels. They have contracts in various counties to work directly with the school systems, community organizations and with families to prevent this behavior. They do not support funding billboards for this issue.

This issue was also discussed with the AOC Legal Services. Legal Services stated that if a board learned of a case and knew that CPS was not aware of the case, it would be necessary to report it. Caroline also cautioned that it is necessary to consider the age of the parties, is it a 14 year-old girl with a 28 year-old man, or is it a 17 year-old girl dating a 19 year-old man? If such a relationship occurs and it becomes a problem, the board needs to question if the child is receiving the appropriate supervision in their placement.

B. Advocacy Committee:

Beth Rosenberg delivered the following report:

Beth stated that the legislature is more conservative than in the past. A number of moderate legislators did not return this year. The focus will be on the budget.

The committee reviewed a tentative list of bills that may be introduced, e.g., Education of Children in Foster Care, Appointment of Surrogates for Special Education Purposes, Allowing Foster Children to Stay in Same School When Moved to Different Placements if it is in his/her best interest; Clearance Cards for Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents; Elimination of the Family Benefit Cap.

CPS presented their budget citing the requirements it would take to meet the Child Welfare League of America Standards (479 new staff of those, 292 would be case managers).

FCRB is requesting three new staff positions. Model Court is requesting an additional \$300,000.

Pete Herschberger has been reappointed to the Human Services Committee. Karen Johnson is Chair of the Senate Family Services Committee. Committee members have not been appointed yet.

Beth asked that volunteers update their email information, and if they are not interested in receiving emails (advocacy alerts), please let the program staff know.

Beth encouraged board members to attend local meetings and speak with their legislators.

A legislative training will be held on February 17. There is discussion about having Bill and Bruce meet with the legislators at the beginning of the session to make them aware of the FCRB and the CASA Programs.

Beth stated that the report, *Educational Experiences of Children in Out of Home Care*, will be emailed to board members.

The report, *Beyond Kissing Babies*, (Children's Action Alliance) discusses issue that public policy makers should be aware of concerning children and family services. This will be made available to board members.

Sandy reported on the behavioral health issues. Department of Health Services received a five-year grant totaling 3.25 million dollars to improve the behavioral health system. They are looking at four areas: substance abuse, children birth to five, transition of offenders to community, major life transitions.

C. Outreach Committee:

Ellen Altman delivered the following report:

The committee met in November to work on a strategic plan. The plan was presented this morning and with some adoptions, it was approved.

The following are the highlights:

- Community Awards: Identify community program awards and nominate FCRB volunteers for these awards.

- Bring Organizations together to coordinate and maximize public awareness campaigns.

- Work with media organizations.

- Prepare Press Kits. Connie has this under control.

Ellen explained that this May (Foster Care Month) the committee, in conjunction with the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, would like to develop a blue plastic bracelet (one for each foster child). They would like to go statewide with this. The bands will be available through the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. A kit will be provided with the bands, and will explain about the FCRB, CASA and the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents.

Joe Jacober and Connie Lopez met with United Way staff. This organization has become interested in promoting foster care and recently published a supplement to the local paper.

D. Continuing Education Committee:

Eileen Bond, on behalf of Carole Cohen, presented the following report:

Christopher Corman informed the committee that the boards in Pima and Cochise counties are receiving an excessive amount of information. Christopher worked with the courts and CPS to develop an outline of the materials that CPS should provide to FCRB. Eileen suggested that it is important the boards statewide have a uniform requirement about the information they require.

Carissa discussed the Finding and Elements Review subcommittee. Carole Cohen will participate in this committee.

The committee discussed the training requirements and how this relates to volunteers who are newly appointed. A concern was raised that new board members may not be attending New Board Member Orientation within the first 90 days. A motion was made to request that the Committee on Juvenile Courts (COJC) make it a requirement for new board members to attend NBMO within 90 days of appointment unless they receive a waiver. The motion was tabled until further research by staff to determine if this concern really is valid. Caroline will research this concern, and the committee will report back at the March meeting.

The committee discussed pro rating the number of required training credits. Currently it stands at 6 hours for non-conference years and 8 hours for conference years. A motion was passed that the requirement would be prorated as follows:

- ▲ New members appointed within the first six months are required to complete 6 or 8 credits;
- ▲ Appointed in months six through nine will be required to obtain 4 or 6 credits;
- ▲ Appointed in the last three months will be required to obtain 2 credits.

A motion was passed that if an individual makes a presentation in the community about FCRB, that presentation will count for training credits. The credits will be determined by the length of the presentation.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Caroline informed the committee that in reply to a suggestion made by Gary Gustafson, a group of volunteers, including Gary, worked with Maeve of the Tucson Office, to develop a form for use by the children who cannot attend the reviews. It would provide an opportunity for them to make comments to the board about what is occurring in their lives and placements. The first draft was distributed to the State Board for their review. Caroline asked that the members review the form and give their feedback either by mail, email or contacting Caroline. The input will be forwarded to the committee for the appropriate modifications. Gary suggested that the form be kept to one page. There has been no concrete plan as to how to distribute this form. There has been discussion about placing it on the website and instructing case managers and foster parents that it is there and available. It would also be possible for the child to complete the form and return it online.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Bill delivered the following report:

During the coming month and the first week of January, the Arizona Republic will run an article by Linda Valdez and a chart that will provide stats on the current number of children out of home; children in foster care six months or longer; children removed from home in the last 30 days; children returned home in the last 30 days; children free for adoption; and, children in foster care adopted in the last 30 days. It will also include the current number of FCRB members; the number of FCRB volunteers needed; the current number of CASAs; the number of CASA volunteers needed. There will be information about whom to contact if you are interested in becoming a volunteer or a foster or adoptive parent. The stats will be updated weekly. The Arizona Republic staff will meet with program staff after January to determine if this chart should be published for a longer period.

Bill presented this information at the COJC meeting on December 3. The judges requested that these numbers be run for their individual counties, and they will attempt to have their local papers do the same type of article.

The Court Improvement Project has worked on a Dually Adjudicated Study. Bill distributed the Executive Summary. The AOC agreed to release the study to Pima on December 2, and the local paper ran an article on it. Since then another article has been published in the Mesa Tribune, and CBS and Channel 5 did reports on the study.

The study was conducted with children who had a dependency petition and a delinquency during 2002. They reviewed over 290 files and also used the JOLTS system. Bill delivered the following information from the study:

73 percent of youth (14-17) whose families are involved with CPS, end up in delinquency court.

78 percent of the families have substance abuse issues;

79 percent of the families have domestic violence issues

61 percent of the families had housing or finance issues;

59 percent of the families had a history of incarceration.

80 percent of the youth had a substance abuse issue;

61 percent of the youth were diagnosed with emotional or mental health issues;

39 percent of the youth had been sexually abused;

25 percent of the youth were suicidal;

64 percent of the females had been sexually abused;

A majority of the youth had 6 placements or more.

Children who are dually adjudicated spend as much time in detention as they do with their own families.

The study recommended revisiting the intake/assessment procedures that are in place.

Examine the potential benefits of creating court teams, e.g., caseworker, probation officer, also mental health staff (RHBA).

Modify the diversion programs to address the issues of these populations.

Take steps to reduce delays in obtaining school records.

Provide services to address substance abuse issues

Improve prevention and early intervention methods.

Conduct regular interagency case reviews.

The Court Improvement Advisory Committee will review the report and the recommendations at their December meeting. They will begin work on a plan to implement the recommendations. The Governor's Office and CPS also has a committee that is working on the dually adjudicated issues. The Court has staff on both sides.

The report has been distributed to the Governor's Office, CPS, Attorney Generals Office, all of the Juvenile Court Judges and Juvenile Court Directors. It is posted to the FCRB website.

A copy of the Chief Justice's Strategic Agenda was forwarded to State Board members in September. Bill asked that members email him with any comments or concerns about the Strategic Agenda before December 10. All comments and concerns will be brought before the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) on that date. The recommendations were adopted by the COJC on December 3.

Beth Rosenberg stated that Children Action Alliance is offering a luncheon symposium, "Connecting Disconnected Youth." It is scheduled for January 21, 2005, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel. Patrick McCarthy of the Annie Casey Foundation will present.

Caroline stated that the program would fund a limited number of board members who may wish to participate. She asked that they contact her or the staff if they are interested.

Eileen Bond made the following motion:

"THE FCRB PRO RATE THE REQUIRED BOARD MEMBER TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR A NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER. IF THEY ARE APPOINTED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR, THEY WILL BE REQUIRED 6 OR 8 HOURS OF TRAINING DEPENDING ON IF IT IS A CONFERENCE YEAR. IF THEY ARE APPOINTED IN SEVENTH THROUGH NINTH MONTH, THEY WILL BE REQUIRED 4 HOURS OF TRAINING. IF THEY ARE APPOINTED IN THE TENTH THROUGH TWELFTH MONTH, THEY WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED 2 HOURS OF TRAINING. EXCEPTIONS MUST GO BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. GENE MANRING SECONDED. MOTION PASSED MOTION (0409)

VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Caroline delivered the following report:

The "Prevent Child Abuse Conference" will be held on January 26 and 27. The FCRB will sponsor a limited number of board members. Please contact the staff if you are interested in attending.

The Sunset Audit of the FCRB has begun. The auditors will be looking to see if we are following our mandate and as effectively as possible and will be providing recommendations for improvement. A list of staff members has been provided to the auditors. Names and numbers for board members will also be supplied since they will be interviewing board members and will be observing boards. Interviews will not be case specific, but relate to our business practices and our work within our mandates. The audit report is required to be forwarded to legislature by October, 2005.

Legislative Day is scheduled for February 17. The morning session will consist of a trip to the legislature. The afternoon session is a training on the pending bills in the legislature and the impact on children and families.

Both Tucson and Phoenix Offices there have had some staff turnover.

The Phoenix Office is moving forward with the Electronic Document Management Project (EDMS). They are piloting one board. Currently they are scanning the information into the management system. When the system is operating, staff will no longer need to copy materials for distribution to the board members.

On October 2, the FCRB and the Arizona Friends of Foster Children hosted its third Sibling Reunion Day. It was the second event in Maricopa. There were about 50 children in attendance, and Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation received some positive media coverage.

Comment cards were distributed over a six-month period to interested parties to learn where we could improve our review system. Elizabeth Jacobs, through Glendale Community College, collected the data. There were a total of 2,041 surveys received and entered into the system. Dr. Jacobs will now analyze the data. The information will be shared when the report is compiled.

Caroline directed the group to the "Reports Received" handout. It contains information for the period August 1 through December 3. The report is broken down by county and provides information on the appropriate reports received from CPS.

To ensure the data was correctly interpreted, Caroline reviewed the Apache County report. The report indicates that FCRB was able to capture information on 59 percent of the cases. The 59 percent equals 13 cases in Apache and of those, 92 percent, or 12 cases, had all of the reports received by the board. Caroline stated the best number to

look at was the second row "*Reports Okay.*" This is 92 percent in Apache. It is not always possible to capture data in 100 percent of data across the states.

Representative Bradley (Tucson) established a committee after last legislative season to review ways to obtain tuition waivers for children in foster care to attend colleges and universities. The committee transitioned into a committee that hosted an event for foster children in Maricopa County who are high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors who have an interest in attending college. There were representatives from the three universities and staff to distribute information about financial aid. The universities have a liaison who will work with foster youth to assist them through this process. About 50 youth attended.

State Board Goals Update

1. Consistent with the Governor's Child Reform Action create a tenth finding with supporting elements that reports identified service gaps for system problems so they can be reported to CPS administrators on a quarterly basis. Status: Completed
2. Focus on substance abuse training as a two-year Continuing Education Committee goal and develop a training delivery method that is conducive to rural boards.

Carissa Moore reported that the substance abuse training has been broken out into five separate modules. The first module is online. The second module will be online within a month. For 2005 two modules remain and will probably be online in March and June. Status: In process

3. Build upon last year's efforts to connect with the community by increasing involvement of volunteers in this charge.

Charlie Gray reported that a flyer will be mailed to foster parents encouraging them to participate in the FCRB reviews. The mailing costs will be handled by the Foster and Adoptive Parents Organization.

A recruitment flyer designed to make people aware of FCRB will also be distributed to the seventh and eighth grade students in the Gilbert School District during December. The children will be asked to bring the flyers home to their parents.

An FCRB bookmark has been developed and distributed to local libraries within Maricopa County. Bookmarks are being developed for the Tucson Office to distribute to their local libraries, etc.

Beth Rosenberg suggested that the Outreach Committee should contact the "Family to Family Initiative" out of DES' 20th Street Office. They are working to keep children within their same communities. This group is working in their community to recruit foster parents and adoptive families and working with churches and community agencies, it may be an opportunity to work together. Deidre Ransom

from DES Central Office is in charge. Joe Jacober stated this group is aware of the FCRB. Charlie will follow up. Caroline suggested that Connie may follow up on this as well.

4. To develop a board member recruitment and implementation plan to assist in decreasing the current vacancy rate and continue recruiting at an increased level.

Connie Lopez reported that an Ad Hoc Committee was established (Bruce Brannan, Joe Jacober, Phil Lopez and Tom Tellez). On August 7 they met to brainstorm and focus on tasks to increase the recruitment of volunteers statewide. A task list of 21 items was developed, including developing a newsletter for corporations and associations, recognition, developing spokespeople, working on the DES Reform Committees. Committee members were assigned tasks and timelines were developed.

Connie informed the group that the Mesa United Way has chosen Foster Care as their topic for this year. The campaign began in September with a luncheon. They had over 350 people who wished to attend this luncheon. Carol McCormick, CEO of the Mesa United Way, contacted Connie to learn how they could assist the Foster Care Review Board. Connie, Chris Jacober of the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents met with Carol. As a result the Mesa United Way decided to adopt Foster Care as their campaign topic for this next year. The FCRB now is receiving an increased number of requests for information.

A video on Foster Care was shown. This is the video developed by United Way and is shown to the corporations in Mesa. Connie thanked Chris Jacober who worked with United Way to develop the video.

5. Conducting a program wide review of the findings and elements.

Christopher reported that between now and the beginning of March a committee will meet to review all of the present findings and elements. Bruce Johnson, the Computer Specialist, collected numbers to determine the elements that are being used and which are not. Christopher stated that there may be additional elements and others may be deleted. Status: Meeting will be scheduled and review completed by April 2005.

VII. DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:

Bill delivered the following report:

The CASA Administrative Code has been revised and approved by COJC. It will be presented at the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) for their approval on December 10.

The CASA Program in Navajo County collaborated with a grower in that area to place 5,000 plant stakes in the Christmas poinsettias that will be shipped throughout the valley

for the holiday season. The stakes contained recruitment information for the CASA Program.

Operational Reviews continue. The draft report for Yavapai County is completed.

Bill stated that he and Bruce will do a presentation for the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Family Services Committee to familiarize them with the Foster Care Review Board Program. This presentation will be scheduled for the first week of the legislative session.

Dependent Children's Services is working with Children's Action Alliance on a study about the effects of jury trials on the child welfare system and the court system. Gene Siegel is doing research and interviews with judges, attorneys and case workers. It should be completed by January 2005, and Bill will distribute to the state board when it is available.

A dependency caseload management curriculum was piloted with Maricopa, Yavapai and Cochise Counties. The Yavapai group have been meeting and working together. They began "stacking" hearings, i.e., if the party is there for a dependency hearing the delinquency hearing will be held immediately after. Maricopa County has a number of committees and they are working to establish a small committee composed of members of the different committees to work on the issues. Since Judge Irwin did not win the election, Cochise County is temporarily on hold. The new judge begins in January.

A Sibling Day will be scheduled for the Tucson area.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no respondents.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M

ACTION ITEMS:

Program Staff to research the statistics for NBMO attendance.

Beth Rosenberg suggested that the Outreach Committee should contact the "Family to Family Initiative" out of DES' 20th Street Office. Charles Gray and Connie Lopez will follow up on this.



Supreme Court

Charles E. Jones
Chief Justice

STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

David K. Byers
Administrative Director
of the Courts

TO: FCRB State Board Members

FROM: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Program Manager *Caroline Lutt-Owens*
Foster Care Review Board Program

DATE: May 2, 2005

RE: June 4, 2005 State Board Meeting

STATE BOARD MEETING:

The State Foster Care Review Board will be meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington, in **Conference Rooms 119 A and B, at 11:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:30 p.m.** Enclosed are the minutes of the March 5, 2005 meeting.

LUNCH



A luncheon has been arranged for June 4, 2005. There will be a presentation 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Information on the presenter will be available on the website www.supreme.state.az.us/fcrb closer to the date of the meeting.

Since we will be ordering lunch, it is imperative that you R.S.V.P. your attendance by May 26, 2005

LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

You have been provided this State Board information for the following reasons:

1. As a mechanism to inform you of State Board meetings and activities. Local board members are always welcome to attend. As a local board member, you only need to R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend.
2. Local board members are encouraged to participate in State Board meetings, however, local board members do not have voting privileges.
3. If you are interested in a committee project, please contact Caroline Lutt-Owens at (602) 542-9408.

(See Volunteer Manual, Page II-10 for further information
about Local Board Member involvement in the State Board.)

(Over)

State Board Members, Please submit the attached R.S.V.P. form by May 26, 2005 or R.S.V.P. by phone to Cathy Metrick (602) 542-9402. You may also e-mail cmetrick@supreme.sp.state.az.us.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All committee agendas and meeting materials will be distributed at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Suite 128 FCRB Main Conference Room (roundtable).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The Community Outreach Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB 2.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Continuing Education Committee will be meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 230.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Committee will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB Main Conference Room.

AD HOC COMMITTEE – GARY GUSTAFSON:

This committee will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Suite 128, FCRB 3 Conference Room.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Enclosed is a list of Hotel/Motel Accommodations located near the State Courts Building. Since the rates are subject to change, please check all rates when making reservations. The current state allowance for lodging in the Phoenix area is \$75.00 per night during June. Also remember to ask for state government rate when making reservations.

The following overnight allowances for participation at the State Board meeting will be made, when necessary:

One Night Stay

Coconino
Gila
Pima
Pinal
Yavapai

Two Night Stay

Apache
Cochise
Graham
Greenlee
La Paz
Yuma

Mohave
Navajo
Santa Cruz

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

JUNE 4, 2005

STATE COURTS BUILDING

Training Room 119 A & B

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch/Speaker |
| 1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. | I. Call to Order Bruce Brannan
Approval of Minutes - March 5, 2005
Introductions/Announcements |
| 1:15 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. | II. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee
B. Advocacy Committee
C. Community Outreach Committee Report
D. Continuing Education Committee |
| 1:55 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | III. Old Business |
| 2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | IV. New Business |
| 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. | V. Program Manager's Report Caroline Lauth-Owens |
| 3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. | VI. Division/AOC Report Bill Stanton |
| 3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | VII. Call to Public Chairperson |
| 3:30 p.m. | VIII. Adjournment Chairperson |

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

March 5, 2005

MINUTES

Present: Maricopa

Ellen Altman
Bruce Brannan
George Bressler
John Cannon
Anne Donahoe
Barbara Hanigsberg
Nancy Harrell
Connie Koch
Marilyn Miller
Linda Smith
Jim Treece
Sylvia Van Arsdale

Pima

Gary Gustafson
Cece Hall
Paul Hanson
Barbara Nelson
Jennifer Stephens-Cortum

Coconino

Carole Cohen

Yuma

Thelma Lundy

Apache

Tracy Candelaria

Pinal

Toni Carlton

Navajo

Thelma Gray

Graham

Ann Johnson

La Paz

Vacant Position

Greenlee

Sarah O'Brien

Yavapai

Doris Haak
Michael James

Cochise

Gene Manring
Patricia Schloss

Mohave

Chuck Flagee

Gila

Vacant Position

Santa Cruz

At-Large

Christa Drake
Joe Jacober
Rachel Oesterle
Beth Rosenberg
Allyn Watson

Staff: Bill Stanton, Caroline Lauth-Owens, Christopher Corman, Sandy Guizzetti, Linda Bednarek, Connie Lopez, Amy Champeau, Carolyn Smith, Cathy Metrick

Local Board Members: Robert Carter, Gilda Czerwonka, Betty Davies, Barbara Davis, Jaye Fallar, Earl Haines, Nancy Lawson, Sandra Miller, Mac Wharton

I. Approval of the Minutes:

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PUBLISHED.
MOTION PASSED. (0408)**

II. Introductions:

The following new state board members introduced themselves: Patricia Schloss, Coconino County; Christa Drake, At-Large Pima County (not in attendance); Cece Hall, Pima County; Jen Stephens-Cortum, Pima County; Toni Carlton, Pinal County; Mark

Lopez, Pinal County (not in attendance); Doris Haak, Yavapai County; Michael James, Yavapai County.

The candidates for the Executive Committee were introduced.

District I: Ellen Altman, Bruce Brannan, Joe Jacober, Rachel Oesterle, Beth Rosenberg, Linda Smith;
District II: Barbara Nelson;
Other than I or II: Tom Tellez, Allyn Watson, Chuck Flagge, Carole Cohen, Tracy Candelaria.

Bruce explained that the Executive Committee is comprised of two representatives from District I; one representative from District II; two representatives from any District other than I or II; two representatives from any District. In addition, the appointed chairs of the three standing committees participate as ad hoc members.

Bruce asked for nominations from the floor for candidates for the Executive Committee. There were no nominees.

A committee sign up sheet was also circulated. Bruce asked all board members to sign up for one of the three standing committees: Advocacy, Continuing Education or Outreach Committee. Committee chairs will be selected by the new chair from this sign-up sheet.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Executive Committee

Bruce stated that the committee met and approved their minutes from December 4, 2004 as published.

The committee denied attendance waivers for Judy Rennels and Jane Shrum. A letter will be forwarded to the presiding juvenile judge for his final decision.

The committee discussed the status of the 2004 training compliance for volunteers. There was about an 80 percent compliance rate. A letter will be sent to the presiding juvenile judge in each county including a short history of the volunteers not in compliance. The judge will be asked to make a determination as to what should be done.

Bruce explained that volunteers are notified in November concerning their training status. The program specialist also follows up throughout the year.

The committee also discussed New Board Member Orientation (NBMO). They asked that the staff bring a recommendation regarding the required timeframe for the completion of NBMO to the Executive Committee in June. The timeline is currently

ninety days after appointment, but this may not be realistic for those boards that meet only twice a year. They suggested correlating the timeline to the number of meetings.

The committee discussed Finding #10 which was initiated in response to Governor Napolitano's CPS session in which she asked to know where the service gaps or system delays existed. The FCRB now generates a quarterly report that presents this information. The quarterly report for 10/2/04 through 12/31/04 indicates that there is a significant service gap in 17% of the cases.

The board reviewed the "Missing Reports" Report. This details reports that have not been received by the review boards. The system has been refined now to respond to the sender when a report is received. The case manager will be asked to bring this confirmation to the review. This will be discussed further at the June meeting.

The vacancy rate statewide is about 12% (59 vacancies). The FCRB program is expanding which accounts for many of the vacancies.

Bill reported that the legislature had not appropriated any new funding for the program in FY'06.

The newly elected Executive Committee will hold a retreat in late April or early May to develop goals for the coming year. The proposed meeting dates are April 23, April 30 or May 7.

B. Advocacy Committee:

Beth Rosenberg delivered the following report:

A Legislative Day was held on February 17. CASA and FCRB members attended. Bill and Beth did the training piece. The group visited the legislature in the afternoon and attended a press conference on the meth lab bill.

The Advocacy Committee discussed doing a Beginning Advocacy Training and also an Advanced Advocacy Training in the future.

Beth informed the board that there was a handout available. It details the child welfare bills at the legislature. These bills were discussed by the committee and especially the meth lab bill. This bill, HB2175, would limit the amount and access to sudaphedrine drugs and increases the penalties for cooking meth in your home if youth are housed there. It has passed the committee but will have a difficult time at the legislature. There is opposition from pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies.

They also discussed the lottery bill. This bill affects the CASA Program since the unclaimed lottery funds support this program. The bill would limit the funds that go to the CASA Program to 2 million dollars next year. The bill appears dead in the house, however, it could be reborn again as a striker bill or associated with another

bill. Bill explained that the bill designates that CASA would now be funded out of the lottery profits. A meeting was held with the Governor's Office to inform them that the CASA appropriation must be increased. The current CASA budget is 2.7 million. It was stated a budget of 4 million would allow the program to function and expand.

Beth informed the committee about the Emancipation of Minors bill which will allow youth who are 16 years and older and not in the custody of the DES or Juvenile Corrections to petition the court for emancipation. The standard proof is clear and convincing evidence that the youth could care for themselves financially, socially, and have the ability to get health care and education, training or employment.

Beth also informed the board a handout is available on the budgets before the legislature. This information is also available on the Children's Action Alliance website. The legislature is not recommending budget increases to keep up with the increased number of kids in the system.

C. Outreach Committee:

Ellen Altman delivered the following report:

Ellen explained that the Outreach Committee is an outgrowth of the Annual Report Committee. The Outreach Committee's goal is to raise awareness about the FCRB Program throughout the state. This included recruiting volunteers for CASA, FCRB as well as recruiting foster and adoptive parents. Linda Valdez of the Arizona Republic ran a series of articles in December highlighting the need for volunteers.

The committee adopted a strategic plan at their December meeting. The plan called for:

- Identifying community program awards and nominating FCRB volunteers for those awards;
- Bringing organizations together to coordinate and maximize public awareness campaigns;
- Working with media organizations; and,
- Preparing press kits.

The committee resolved to work on the community awards piece. They agreed to work through the program specialist and have them check with board members to learn if they or any family member works with an organization that sponsors awards. It would then be determined if an FCRB member would be eligible for the nomination for the award.

Ellen reminded everyone that the FCRB website address: www.supreme.state.az.us contains statistics and pertinent information about the program.

Gary Gustafson will work with Connie Lopez on recruitment for Pima County board members.

Joe Jacober informed the committee about the "Courage for Children" wristband campaign. The wristbands are available to order and should be worn during the May which is Foster Care Awareness Month in support of the nearly 10,000 children in Arizona's foster care system. All profits will go into a scholarship fund for foster children which will be administered by the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation. Joe encouraged everyone to participate and increase awareness of the children who are in foster care.

D. Continuing Education Committee:

Carole Cohen delivered the following report:

The committee received updates on the existing subcommittees.

The Training Corner, a column in the DCSD newsletter, contains information as to where volunteers can receive additional training credits. Committee members are working to gather this information and see it is published.

The Quality Review Subcommittee is working to gather information on the financial aspects pertaining to foster children and foster parents, e.g., the financial aid associated with the ILS Program; how to qualify; how to receive this. What is involved in licensing of foster parents; services to children and parents. The goal of this subcommittee is to make more information available to the volunteers doing the reviews.

A new Archive subcommittee has been established. This committee will develop an organized system to retrieve the program's former training materials. They are assessing this now and will have further details in June.

The CEC also developed a list of potential training topics. The list will be compiled and reviewed by the committee; and by next June, they will begin working in small groups on the various subjects. The groups will look at the modality, the available resources (website, written, oral presentation), and the schedule production of training materials.

The first two segments of the Substance Abuse Training are now on the website. The third segment is in process.

There are 47 volunteers signed up for the New Board Member Orientation scheduled in Tucson during April.

A committee to revise the Findings met in February, and there is another meeting scheduled after the State Board. There has been good progress and the Findings should be easier to use. There are additional notes and explanations.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

The State Board elected the following members for the Executive Committee:

Bruce Brannan, Joe Jacober, Barbara Nelson, Allyn Watson, Carole Cohen, Rachel Oesterle and Beth Rosenberg.

The State Board unanimously elected Bruce Brannan as the Chair for 2005 and 2006.

Rachel Oesterle, Carole Cohen, and Joe Jacober were nominated as vice chair candidates. Rachel Oesterle was elected.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Children's Input to the Board Form: Gary Gustafson received the feedback on the draft form from the state board members. Staff also interviewed children and those who care for children for their input. They will move forward to get this form online.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Gary suggested that a committee be formed to gather local board members' feedback. He requested that the committee focus on how the state board interfaces with board members. This committee may also bridge the other three committees to develop ways to communicate.

GARY GUSTAFSON MADE A MOTION THAT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD BE ESTABLISHED TO INCREASE THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN STATE BOARD AND LOCAL BOARDS. MICHAEL JAMES SECONDED. MOTION PASSED (0409).

The state board discussed including this as a goal for the Executive Committee in 2005 and developing methods to achieve better communication between the state board and local boards.

Gary felt that it would be better to develop a committee devoted to the issue and concentrate on it at first. After a time it may fit as a subcommittee under the other committees. Bill asked that Gary take the lead to establish an ad hoc committee. A sign up sheet of those who would be interested in joining should be circulated. It was also suggested that it could be an ad hoc committee under the Outreach Committee.

Currently, board members are able to share information through the website. A web page designed as a bulletin board is available to volunteers. Also a form was developed for volunteers to send their comments and suggestions to management through the program specialists.

Bill cautioned everyone to be aware of "local board issues" versus "statewide issues." Some issues are relevant to specific areas and should be handled through staff and management; while others such as behavioral health care are statewide and are handled through the state board.

Tracy Candelaria suggested that there should be follow up investigations/visits with children who were in the system and who have been adopted to be sure they are receiving the proper care after adoption. Particular attention must be paid to those children who are home schooled. Bruce cautioned everyone that adoptive parents have the same rights as natural parents. Beth stated that the Governor promised to look into the issue of home schooling after an incident in Tucson. Beth will check into this to determine if legislation has been proposed.

Gary suggested the Advocacy Committee might send a letter to a legislator asking that they introduce a bill to require the testing of home schooled children as a protection for them.

VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Maria Pastore Lewis, FCRB Training Specialist, has left the program for another position and recruitment is under way.

A report on 2005 training indicates that 31 volunteers have complied with the 2005 training requirement and 77 volunteers have some training credits so far for 2005. This report was generated before February 17, Legislative Day.

Caroline asked that those who attended the Child Abuse Prevention Training or Children's Action Alliance Luncheon in January to please contact Cathy Metrick with their information. She will enter the training credits.

The following are the current volunteer vacancies by county:

Apache 2	Gila 1	Maricopa 11
Mohave 1	Navajo 3	Pima 18
Pinal 6	Santa Cruz 3	Yavapai 2
Yuma 1		

Eighteen volunteer candidates are in the process of appointment.

Caroline reviewed the "Missing Reports Report" with the board. She informed them that Ellen Altman suggested FCRB should contact DES in those counties with the highest compliance rate to learn if a short notice could be placed in their newsletter thanking those caseworkers for sending their reports in a timely manner. It will also be included in DCSD newsletter.

Three of the 2004 State Board Goals have been completed. The goal regarding the ad hoc committee on recruitment is an ongoing process, and the committee will be reconvened.

The goal on substance abuse was a two-year goal, and two of the training modules are completed and online. The third and fourth will be completed and online by September or October.

The goal regarding the review of the Findings and Elements is in progress. The group met in February and will meet again after the state board to complete their work and revisions. A training will also be scheduled for volunteers on the new Findings and Elements.

The Sunset Audit is now in the field work phase. They have contacted staff, and volunteers for input. They are focusing on:

1. What value does the FCRB add to the child welfare system? They will survey the judges for input on this question. They are also reviewing DES' responses to the FCRB recommendations. If time permits, they will contact other states to determine how they handle reviews, i.e., is it volunteer base or administrative.
2. FCRB Process and Operations which focuses on training of volunteers, recruiting, diversity, avoiding conflicts of interest within the board, timelines, and plans for future caseload growth.

The preliminary draft report should be completed in July. The finalized report will be forwarded to the legislature in October.

Elizabeth Jacobs continues to work on the comment card responses. She has separated the various groups and forwarded the preliminary draft of the case manager responses. This information looked good. The information will be available when it is finalized.

Caroline proposed the following dates for the Executive Retreat: April 23, April 30, or May 7. She asked the new Executive Committee members meet with her after the state board to decide the best date.

VII. DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Bill Stanton delivered the following report:

The CASA Program will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a Children's Festival.

The FCRB in Tucson is working with the In My Shoes Program on a Sibling Visitation Day which is scheduled for May 7. Bill asked volunteers in Pima County who may be interested in assisting to please contact staff.

Bill stated the legislative session may extend past the 100 days. Bill explained that the legislature may take out the original request to fund the lease costs for the Supreme Court Building from the CASA fund. The JLBC budget submitted to the legislature does not recommend additional positions for the FCRB.

HB 2620 Fingerprinting for Adoptive and Foster Parents. This is a strike all bill in which the language has been stricken, and it now appropriates 5 million dollars for family drug court. Bill cautioned everyone to read the bills thoroughly.

The counties involved in the original Dependency Caseflow Management Workshop (Maricopa, Yavapai and Cochise) plan to meet again in April to determine what progress has been made. Bill will report in June about this.

Last year the legislature passed a bill permitting jury trials for termination of parental rights. A study on jury trials was done by Children's Action Alliance. The result is that there is no difference in the outcome of those cases that go to a jury trial or a bench trial. This bill will be in existence for another two years. At that time it may be terminated by the legislature. Bill will distribute the study to anyone who is interested.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No respondents present.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.